OSMA Software Assurance Symposium 2001
Survey Results

The 1st Annual NASA Office of Safety and Mission Assurance Software Assurance Symposium (OSMA SAS '01) was held Wednesday through Friday, September 5-7, 2001 at the Lakeview Scanticon Resort and Conference Center in Morgantown, West Virginia and was sponsored by the NASA Office of Safety and Mission Assurance as part of its Software Assurance Research Program (SARP) managed by the NASA Software Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Facility. The survey results, by those who attended, for 2001 follows. There were a total of 48 surveys submitted.

For further information, please refer to the OSMA SAS '01 Web Site at
http://www.ivv.nasa.gov/business/research/osmasas/.

Many attendees expressed their thoughts and feelings about the symposium in our online survey; their comments are as follows (in the order they were received):

1. Like you, I wasn't sure from the research titles what really was the topic. Some of the research was more related than I anticipated- wish we could have had related papers in same sessions.

2. Better preparation on the method of showing the presentations.

3. I would like to see the papers kept on schedule, with time blocked out, possibly at the end, for questions and discussion. The computer and projection needs to be better organized in advance.

4. Keep some time for questions.

5. Yes - it should be an annual affair by adding more outside speakers, you have a chance to make this a premier event in VV&A/Software Assurance research. Some speakers should go longer, others shorter. Perhaps there should be a session concentrating on theory and innovative approaches, and then another session concentrating on applications, etc. The facility overall was very good. The conference was a "great value" and I enjoyed attending, meeting new people, and learning new approaches.

6. Good job Ken and Traci, next year check out the HW sooner and require people to submit so time is not lost changing machines.

7. It appeared that much of the research was focused on Programmatics and improvement of Software Development methods such as Risk Mitigation, Software Reliability, Project estimation, and ROI. My thoughts were that the current research would help the Program and Project Managers, but not the specific S/W developers or IV&V practitioners. I would suggest that more research efforts should be spent on developing methods and tools to help the software developers and the IV&V practitioners reduce or identify system/software errors.

8. I was very impressed with the material presented. We are presently evaluating several of the tools discussed, relative to S/W code analysis, for the AATT project. I would like to suggest that you consider mini-symposiums, through out the year, that are more focused on a specific topic (code analysis tools/research, ROI, etc). I believe this would help to get more of the community that actually use/need the tools to see what is being developed. It could also provide feedback, to the researchers, from the ones who will in the end use the tools/methods.

9. Panel discussions or more time to respond to directed or focused topic areas might be beneficial.

10. As indicated above, overall I felt the symposium was excellent. I look forward to the next one.

11. The limit of 20 minutes per presentation should be enforced so some time for questions can be included.

12. Donuts at the morning break would have been nice.

13. There should be 5 minutes for questions after each presentation.

14. Must have QA after presenter.

15. A good idea to make it an annual event.

16. This symposium was very beneficial. I was not aware that there was so much research going on in the area of software engineering. I would not mind having it at the same place next year. However, West Virginia is a very pretty state and I would not mind seeing some other portion of it. Thank you for all your efforts.

17. Suggestion: provide a list of attendees (with e-mails). The badges looked rather nice but hard to read.

18. This is an excellent exchange for key people involved in advancing the state of the practice and the state of the art of Software Assurance, IV&V, Reliability, Safety & Security across NASA. It is also a fine exposition of the worthy projects that Code Q is funding through the SARP program.

19. I was pleased to see all the work that many of the other NASA Centers were doing and the on-going research. I identified another tool that I did not know about that would be helpful with my own research. I am in contact with the PI to incorporate their tool into my own research task.

20. 1. About the timing of the "questioning", you did not give us an option on "question should be asked with no restriction of time" - and this is my vote. The environment of LakeView Resort is great. I suggest we have it there again next year. We don't have to change place for the sake of "having some different place".

21. More break/coffee time would be desirable to have more interaction among researchers. 15-20 minutes for presentation and 5-10 minutes for Q&S would be reasonable. Someone should notify speakers remaining presentation time (e. g. , 5min. 1 min, the end). It would be nice to distribute the attendance list. More power or extension should be prepared. Many people wanted to use their notebooks.

22. Most of the speakers and topics would be considered to be excellent, however some were quite dry and boring. That is very understandable. Ken, you and the organizing committee did an excellent job. I am looking forward to next year!! Thanks!

23. You might have some panel discussions on certain topics. WHY NOT HAVE THE QUESTION AND ANSWERS ON A PER SESSION BASIS??

24. Presenters should summarize research, not recreate the details. Presentation of theory and equations is not productive. Symposium is a great idea and greatly assists those who evaluate proposals.

25. I think it is very important that time for questions be allowed after each presenter - both for clarifications for the audience and feedback to the presenter. The opening talks from SAIC and Titan Systems were very interesting, but I felt that the one from Motorola needed more of an introduction. I wasn't clear about Motorola's connection to the symposium. But all in all, I felt the time spent was very worthwhile and the talks were very professionally done.

26. The symposium was very well organized and in my view it was a success. It is very good idea to make this an annual event. I feel that about five to ten minutes should be allowed for discussions after each presentation.

27. My biggest issue was the lack of a Q&A session (even for 5 minutes) after each speaker. This is a great opportunity for 1 on many technology transfer and the lack of such an ability precluded the posing of questions that some folks may not have thought of and provides answers to the entire audience out, so that it would be less disruptive for folks to come/go during presentations. Next year's event will be even bigger and better.

28. Well organized!

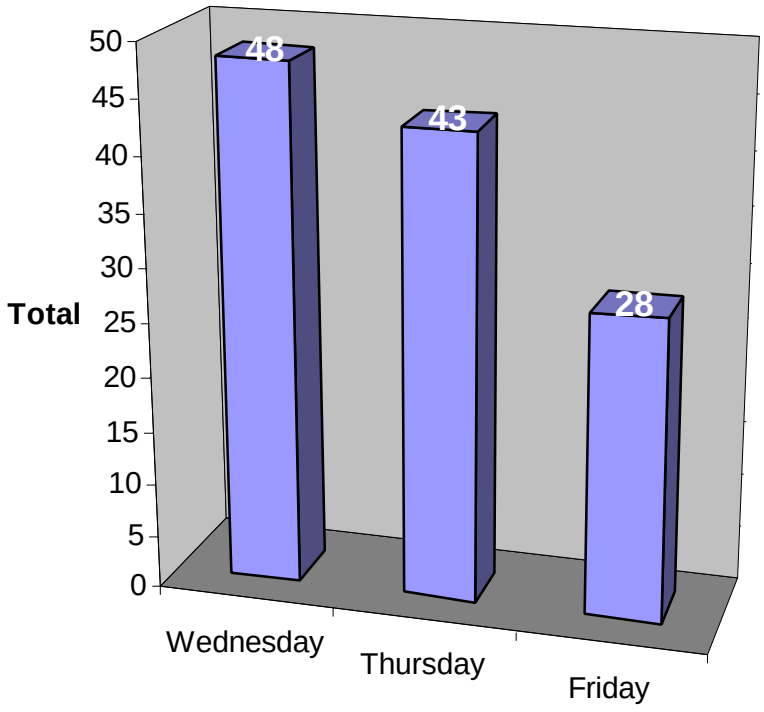
Other Study Fields Specified

Chief Systems Engineer
Educator
HQ Representative
JPL QA
Practitioner & Researcher
Research Lead, IV&V
Research Scientist
Researcher
Researcher, Academic
Researcher, IV&V
Researcher, Software Quality
Researcher, Student
Researcher, University
Researcher, VV&A
Researcher/Consultant
Security Professional
Software Assurance
SQA Engineer
Student
SW Assurance Engineering/MNGR
SWG Member
WVU Faculty Member

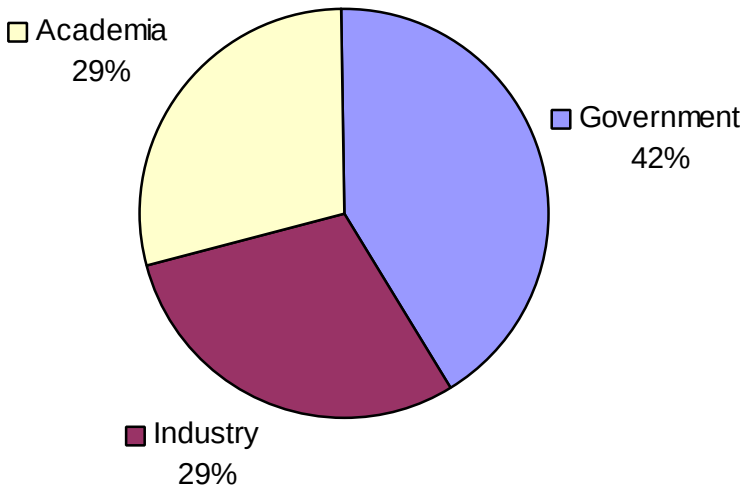
Chart Related to Question:

1.	Attendance Per Day	What day(s) did you attend?
2.	Affiliation of Attendees	What category below represents you the best?
3.	Study Fields of Attendees	What category below represents you the best?
4.	Presentation Length Preferences	What is your opinion of...
5.	Questioning Preferences	What is your opinion of...
6.	Symposium Facilities	What did you think of...
7.	Foods & Beverages	What did you think of...
8.	Conferences Format	What did you think of...

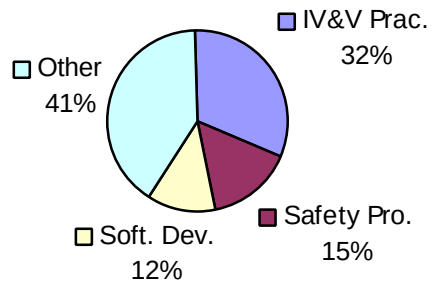
Attendance Per Day



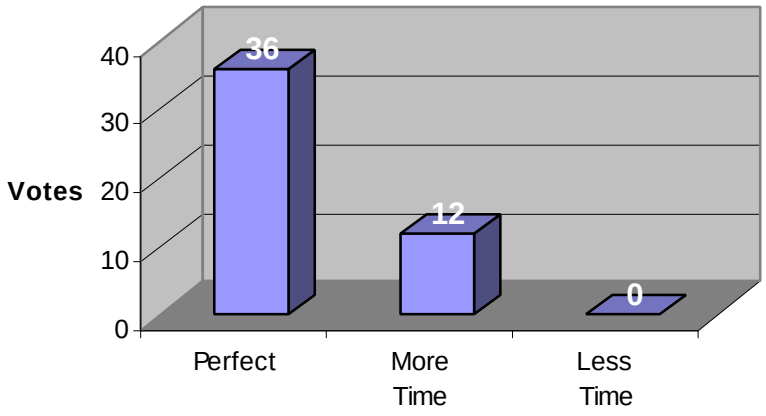
Affiliation of Attendees



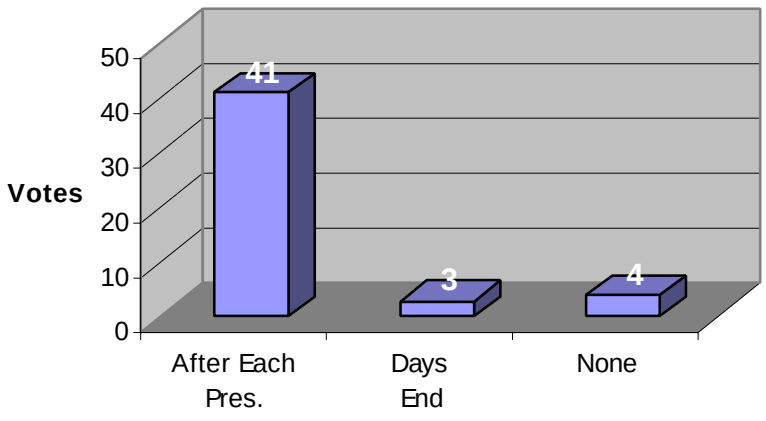
Study Fields of Attendees



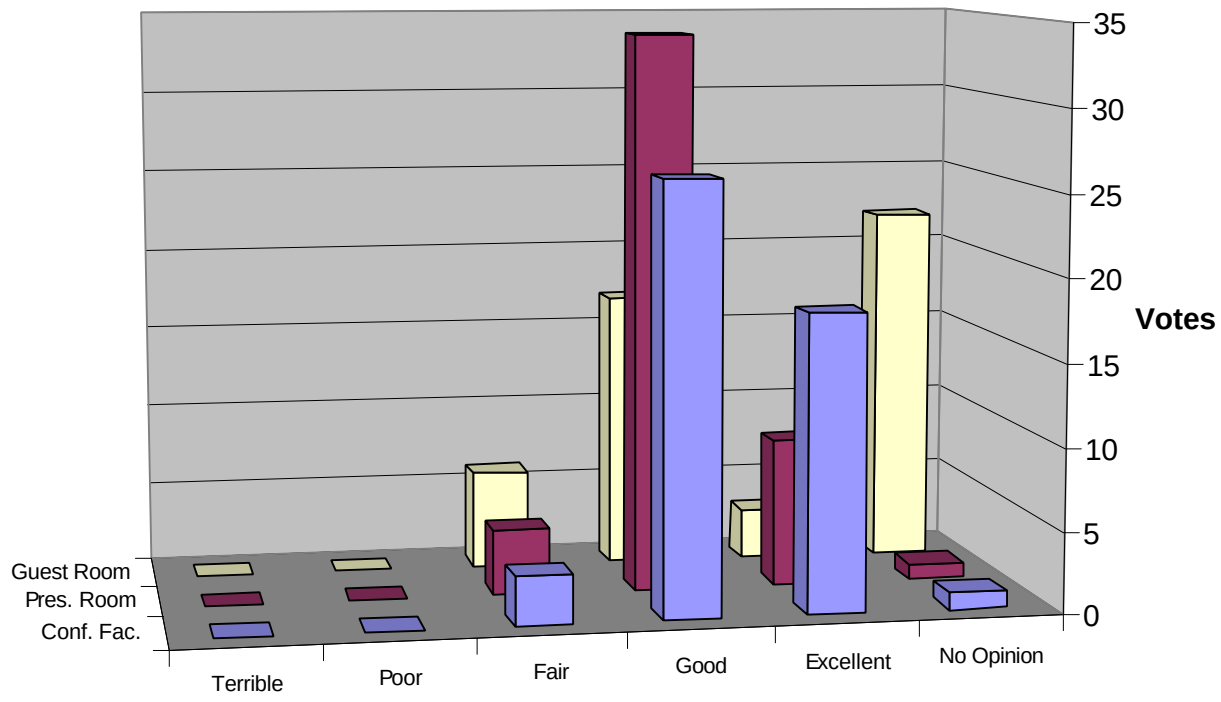
Presentation Length Preferences



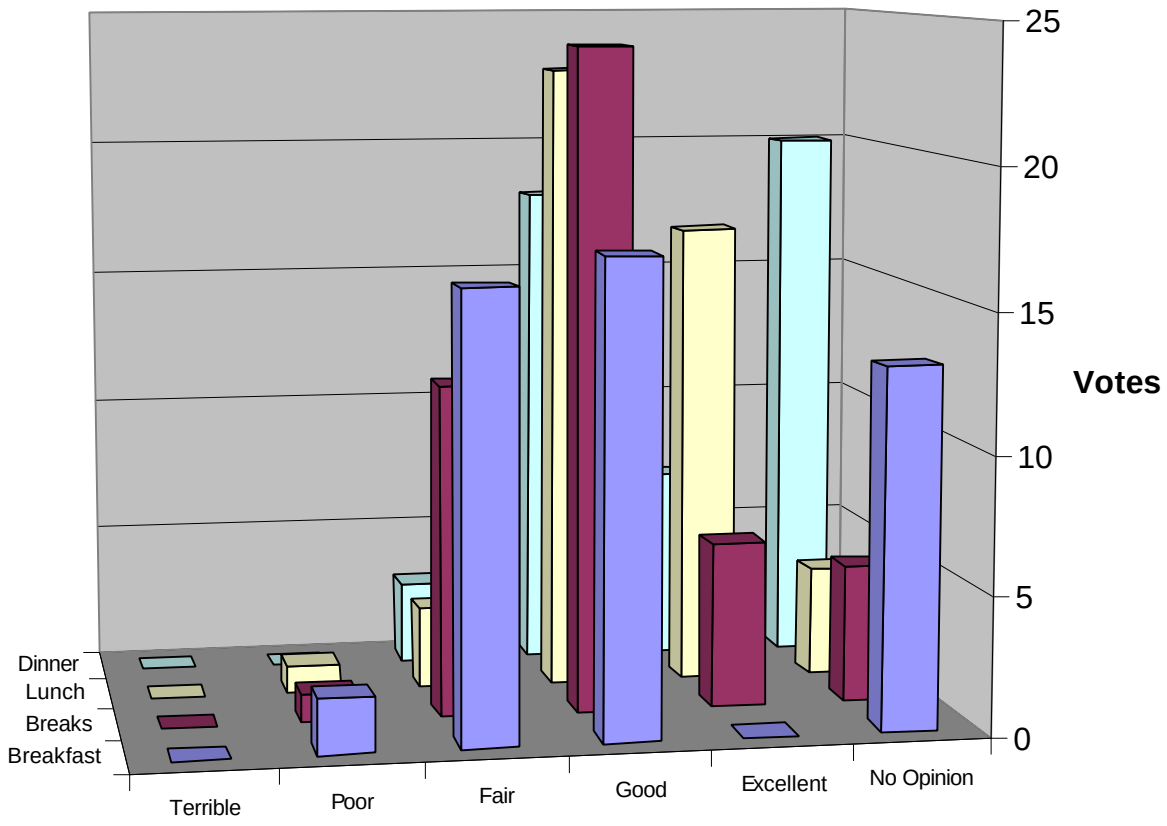
Questioning Preferences

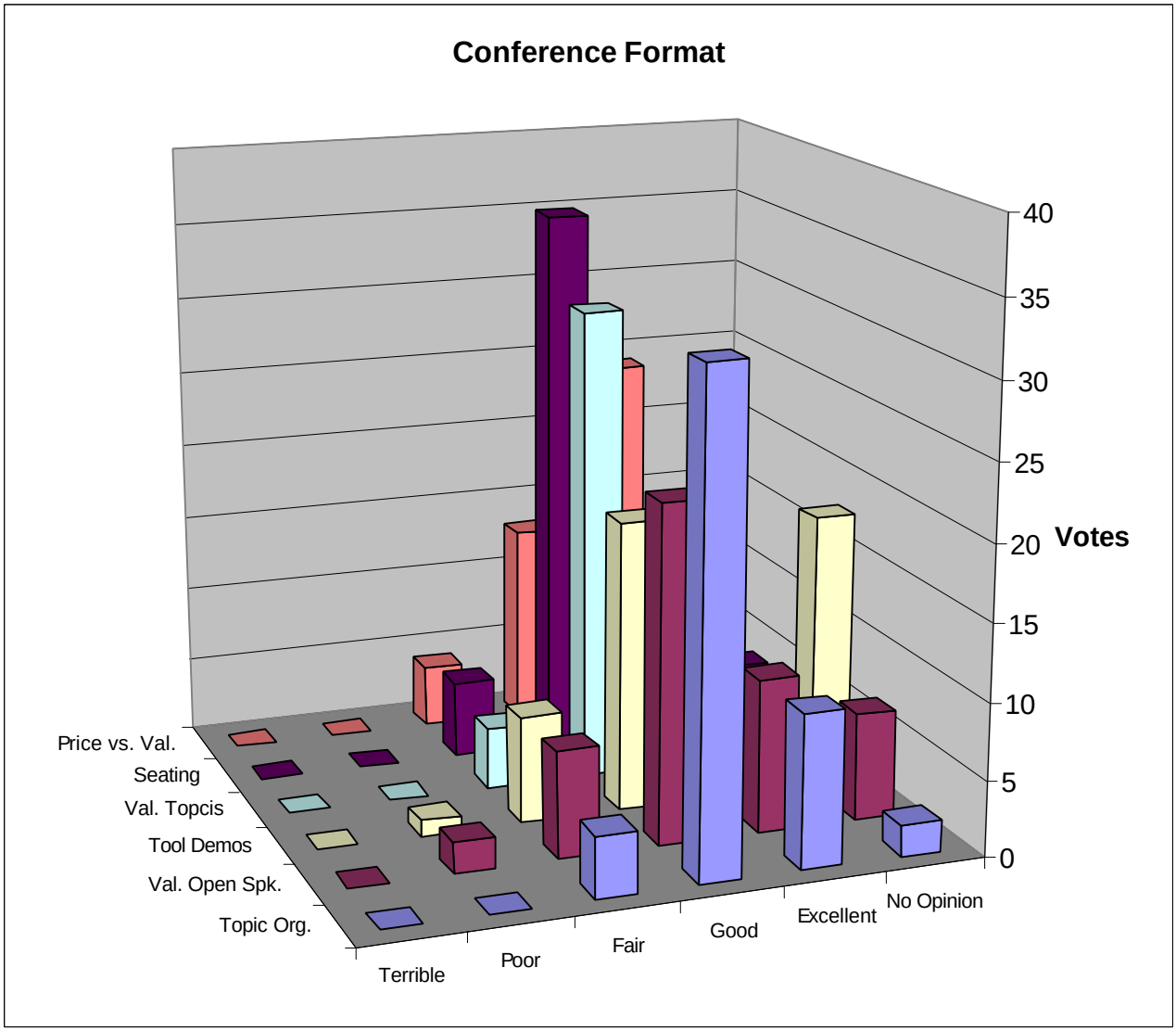


Symposium Facilities



Foods & Beverages




Conference Format
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
Votes
Price vs. Val.
Seating
Val. Topcis
Tool Demos
Val. Open Spk.
Topic Org.
Terrible
Poor
Fair
Good
Excellent
No Opinion